



Grapevine Dog Parks Public Meeting

Summary Report





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Public Meeting Summary

The public dog park meeting, hosted by City staff and representatives from Pacheco Koch held at The REC of Grapevine on May 2, had a tremendous turnout. The overwhelming 120-resident audience included all ages, from children to grandparents. Comments and questions were welcomed and addressed from anyone who had a voice. A presentation was given for the proposed sites, followed by opening the floor for questions, and then concluded with idea board interaction. Ten idea boards were posted around the meeting space, which allowed residents to indicate their preferences for certain amenities by placing stickers adjacent to images.

The goal of the public meeting was to allow residents the chance to express their preferences for the dog parks, but to also give the team a design direction as well as provide a character palette for the next phase in the process. The strongest elements included access to water for dog play, shade, restrooms, lighting, and different sized paddocks. While shade, restrooms, and lighting provide safety and comfort for humans, the different sized paddocks provide safety for dogs by limiting the dog interaction by size.

A common theme appeared to center around a modern/rustic aesthetic. This is characterized by the use of wood and heavy timbers, unfinished metal, and bare concrete along with stone accents. These notions will be used to develop the character and appearance of the parks.

Other thoughts and ideas were fencing types beyond chain link, self-closing gates, and barriers to prevent digging under the fences. A healthy mix of traditional dog training features and natural play features were also expressed. Safety was a primary concern and those concerns were included in detail in the report. Art and all-weather elements will be explored, as well as revenue generating ventures that include dog washing stations and rental spaces.

In summary, the City of Grapevine is very supportive and excited about the dog parks. Residents are looking forward to a safe and fun place to take their four-legged friends and can't wait for the parks to open. These parks will set a new precedent in the metroplex of creativity, quality, and experience.





Site Presentation

The dog park design process began with a thorough site investigation and analysis of seven potential locations. These included five sites on the north side of town along the shores of Lake Grapevine and two sites on the south side of town along Big Bear Creek.

Each site was rated based on area, slope, existing infrastructure, and water access. Existing natural and constructed amenities were inventoried and compared site to site. This allowed the sites to be graded through the use of a design matrix.

While a perfect site was not available, this process allowed the best sites to be selected. With a location on the north side and south side of town. All residents of Grapevine will be within a three mile radius of a dog park.





Safety Concerns and Feature Requests

Following the site presentation, the discussion was opened to the members of the community. In order to frame the discussion question were posed for the community with a limit of ten answers per question. Community members were invited to add to the lists at the end of the meeting. The first questions asked was "What is the top item on your wish list for the dog park?" The question generated a lot of discussion that tended to snowball as participants added to each others comments. This is important to note as it illustrates the level of engagement of the community.

A simple example was the desire for on site bathrooms. That topic lead to the discussion of what to do with your dog while in the bathroom. Was your dog allowed in the bathroom or was there a place to tie your dog up outside? Perhaps the best solution was the idea of a simple kennel adjacent to the bathroom for your dog to securely wait for you.

The second question was "What was your number one safety concern that needs to be addressed at the dog parks?" Responses varied from dog safety on one end of the spectrum to patron safety on the other end of the spectrum. Dog aggression and minimum ages for children were discussed. One measure that could be taken against dog aggression was the suggestion of a water extinguisher to spray and break up fighting dogs if the situation ever presented itself.

The healthy discussion shed light on many wishes and concerns of the community. These were recorded and will be essential elements of the design discussion as the process continues forward.



Safety Concerns

1. Size segregation
2. Road separation
3. Fence sizes
4. Dog fights
5. Signage with contact number
6. Leash/collar/harness getting caught on equipment
7. Car break-ins
8. Security visibility in large areas
9. Self closing gates
10. Wild animals
11. Young children in the dog park
12. Food
13. Digging out
14. How to fence in the area when the water goes down.
15. Tornado / bad weather warning siren
16. The serious disc golfers play 18 holes do not drink- 9 holes will invite only those that party.
17. Warning siren at Bear Creek
18. Water extinguisher around park for dog fights
19. Signage banning metal choker collars (safety).

Feature Requests

1. Social seating (for people) with shade
2. Lighting
3. Programs/ events/ adoptions
4. Shade
5. Fence
6. Water
7. Bathroom
8. Many receptacles
9. Bilingual signage
10. Dog wash
11. Drink stations
12. Multiple surfaces
13. Double gates
14. Native landscaping
15. Staff has always been very patient with dogs
16. Dog prints of real dogs in concrete- maybe as part of soft opening, raffle to put your dog's paw print in concrete, or create memorials at dog parks.
17. Have a raffle to put your dog's paw prints in sidewalk
18. Natural shade trees
19. Agility equipment
20. No grass with water structures
21. Motion sensor water play
22. Dogs can reach the bottom of the water (lake)
23. Use local high school student's artwork
24. Create a good photo opportunity, i.e., monument sign



Image Board Survey

The final portion of the public meeting was the image board survey. This exercise allowed for the most direct participation from those that attended the meeting. The staff and consultant team were stationed around the large room next to various presentation boards. The staff was there to answer any questions and encourage participation while remaining impartial and careful not to influence the selections of the residents. The ten presentation boards prepared addressed the following topics:

- benches
- buildings
- earthwork
- art applications
- fencing
- kiosks
- lighting
- monument signs
- play features
- shade structures

Every attendee at the city meeting was given 11 stickers and was instructed to walk around to each board and place one sticker per board on their most favored picture(s).

The following pages include the image boards presented at the city meeting. With each board representing an element of the proposed dog park, pictures of various styles, materials, and options for each element were presented for the community to select from.

On the following pages the image boards are represented with red numbers on the pictures. The numbers associated with each image represent the number of preference stickers placed on that image. The design team will use this “sticker survey” for design direction to incorporate the public input provided. This process helps to ensure that the parks themselves will be a reflection of the community as their ideas are integrated into the design of dog park.



SHADE



Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



Summary:
Fabric: 21
Metal: 32
Wood: 3

LIGHTING



Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.



BENCHES



Summary:
Stone: 15
Metal: 11
Wood: 43

KIOSK



*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.

Summary:
Primarily Metal Kiosks: 22
Primarily Wood Kiosks: 19
Primarily Stone Kiosks: 9



FENCING



Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



No chainlink due to dog safety concerns.

Summary:
Metal type fence: 63
Metal with wood type fence: 15

BUILDING



Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.

More natural look preferred

Summary:
Primarily Brick Structures: 8
Primarily Wood Structures: 32
Primarily Metal Structures: 4
Other: 12



Pacheco Koch

APPLIED



FOCAL



Public Art | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



EARTHWORK



INTEGRATED



Public Art | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.



Pacheco Koch

PLAY

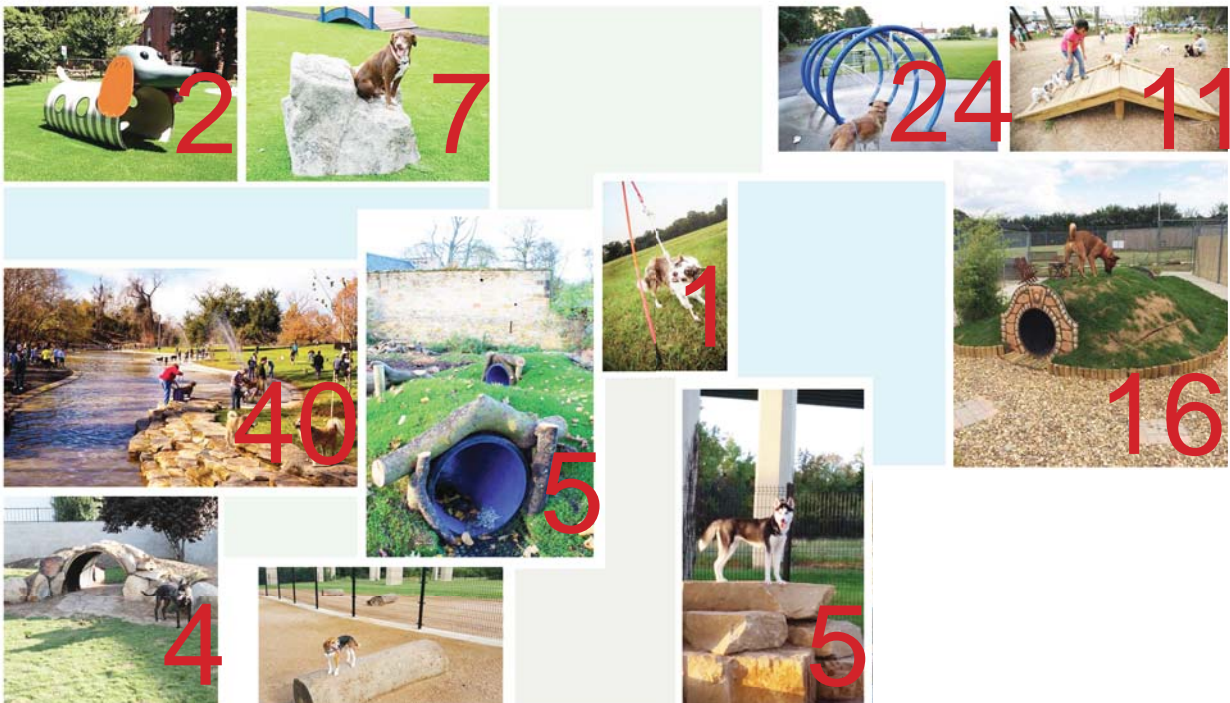


Pacheco Koch

Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



PLAY



Pacheco Koch

Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas



*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.

The type of water access preferred was hard surface multiuse access, rather than natural shoreline access.



Pacheco Koch

MONUMENT SIGN



Pacheco Koch

Materials & Furnishings | Dog Park | Grapevine, Texas

*The red numbers associated with each image represents the number of stickers placed on that preferred image.

The most preferred image confirms look and feel of current park signage.

Summary:
Primarily Stone Material: 37
Primarily Metal Material: 11
Primarily Wood Material : 8





Conclusion

Dogs are an important part of our communities. Dog owners are often passionate and motivated. Without question this is the case in Grapevine. Public participation is an essential design tool. The value of public input serves two fold.

The first benefit may be obvious, however none the less important as it reflects the desires of the local community. By responding to the information gathered in public meetings the design consultants can ensure that the park will be a reflection of the local community. The design direction helps facilitate programming and materials for the parks. The importance of quality and creativity are underscored. Additional public comments are recorded on the following page.

The second benefit of public input, is perhaps less obvious but equally if not even more important. It creates a vested interest in the project for those participating. As their input is responded to and integrated into the design a sense of pride and ownership begins to grow. These sentiments encourage patrons to care for and watch over their parks.

The City of Grapevine is looking forward to their new dog parks. Residents are excited to have an enjoyable and fun place to take the furry members of their families. With an eye to the future and a foot on the foundation of the past, these parks will present a new level of creativity, quality, and experience in the metroplex.



Citizen Comments (Unedited)

1. Copy the signage, lighting, building etc. of all the other parks in Grapevine should follow the same look especially at the one near the lake
2. So excited about each location -- southside close to home and north to swim! Can the parks be deemed "non-smoking" and alcohol/drug free areas?
3. Nice stone work, seating area, bathrooms – nice and clean, water areas, small/medium/large dog areas
4. Dog washing station, nice rock work, seating area, double gates, small/medium/large dog area
5. Good double fencing, boards to post lost pet notices, bathrooms for humans, covered area for adoptions. Area for remembrance or memorial of past pets. It could be designed with a water feature or water fountain, some seating, it could be designed similar to the 911 memorial here in Grapevine where residents could buy memorial bricks to help fund the area. The same idea could be applied to the seating area where for X amount you could donate the funds and have your pets name on a bench or whatever seating you decide to do...the same could apply to the trees where you can purchase a single tree for the park with a rock next to it...I believe you offer this in the other city parks already.
6. Signs regarding behavior (limit aggression/aggressive pets). Lighting – motion sensor? Not on all the time, won't disturb residents living nearby
7. Gate between water access area and rest so we can keep dog out of water if we want to.
8. Please no bathroom structure for McPherson Slough only porta potties! Please limit hours and no lights. Bear Creek – BAD IDEA all together. I see many dogs getting hit and killed in that location near the freeway.
9. Noise reduction – traffic noise from 360 at Bear Creek is incredibly loud
10. It looks like the back six (#s 13-8) holes of the disc golf course will be lost. Are there plans to perhaps re-design the front twelve into a longer

nine hole course with multiple baskets/tees to yield a functioning eighteen holes.

11. Will you be able to rent some of the paddocks/ areas? Groups such as trainers, dog scouts of America, etc. would be interested in this.

12. My very peaceable large dog was bitten at boos buddies by a mean corne cogo. We left I didn't know she was bleeding till in the car. Someone told dog owner they would report her. She returned weeks later and same dog attacked two others. One park regular retired law officer got address, name, and lady to turn in to southlake police. Nothing was easy about dealing with this aggressive dog. Found out also kicked out of Euless dog park. If there is comfortable tree shaded seating will have ardent dog owners willing to policing area. Please take cost into mind with these parks. Save some money for maintenance and improvements.

13. Will there be volunteer opportunities for highschool students? If so, I have at least 100 from collegiate academy.

14. Possible vending machine and trash receptacles.

15. I have concerns about fish hooks at the lakeside. Don't know if that would be an issue. Also mountain bike clubs use the tables by the trailhead on a weekly basis. My hope is another would be installed if they are taken by the dog park.



[illegible]

* Variables that may affect project schedule include but are not limited to preferred project delivery method, utilities or elements selected for self performance construction, project prioritization, and weather.